

REMARKS

Claims 5, 6, 9-11, 15-17, 19-24, and 29 are pending in the Application. Claims 9 and 29 have been amended. Claims 1-4, 7, 8, 12-14, 18, and 25-28 have been canceled without prejudice. No new matter has been added. Entry of the amendments is respectfully requested. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 9 was indicated allowable if informalities were corrected. Claim 9 has been amended to correct the informalities as requested by the Office. Pursuant to a telephone interview regarding Claim 29 held on or about February 4, 2005, the Office indicated that the amendments contained in a facsimile sent to the Office on or about February 4, 2005, would define over the prior art without adding new subject matter if one of the phrases “below the gunwale,” “beneath the gunwale,” or “supporting the gunwale” was also added before the last comma in claim 29. The indication of allowable subject matter is greatly appreciated, and Claim 29 has been amended as requested.

Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments place the application in condition for allowance. The amended claims avoid the rejections set forth in the last Office Action because they recite the subject matter indicated allowable by the Office as stated in the Office Action or in a subsequent telephone interview. The amended claims do not raise the issue of new matter because the subject matter therein has already been claimed and examined (and indicated allowable). The amendment does not present additional claims but rather cancels claims. Nor do the amended claims present new issues requiring further consideration or search, because the subject matter therein was previously claimed and examined. Furthermore, the claims have been amended as recommended by the Office. For these reasons Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant respectfully continues to traverse the rejections. Nevertheless, the claims have been amended to advance prosecution. Applicant reserves the right to file another application (e.g., a divisional application) relating to any claim.

No Fee Required

No fee is deemed required. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any necessary fee associated with this Response and any other fee due to the Deposit Account No. 10-0637 of Walker & Jocke.

Conclusion

The undersigned will be happy to discuss any aspect of the Application by telephone at the Office's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,



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